

HOUSE No. 3130

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Walter F. Timilty

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act prohibiting deceptive billing practices by cellular telephone service providers.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Walter F. Timilty	7th Norfolk
Barbara A. L'Italien	18th Essex
Todd M. Smola	1st Hampden
Jennifer M. Callahan	18th Worcester
Paul McMurtry	11th Norfolk

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3382 OF 2007-2008.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT PROHIBITING DECEPTIVE BILLING PRACTICES BY CELLULAR TELEPHONE SERVICE PROVIDERS.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority
of the same, as follows:*

1 Section 12(d) of Chapter 159 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
2 the words “telegraph line”, the following: “means of cellular telephone services”.

3 Section 12 of Chapter 159 is hereby amended by inserting after section 12(d) of said Chapter the
4 following:

5 (e) The department shall have jurisdiction over all wireless service providers doing business
6 within the commonwealth. Said department shall draft and promulgate regulations providing
7 guidelines for billing practices to be established for said wireless service providers, including but
8 not limited to (1) consumers are entitled to an itemized bill at no cost to the consumer; (2) design
9 a bill in which government mandated taxes and provider surcharges appear separately; (3) label
10 the separate columns “Government Fees and Taxes” and Provider Surcharges; (4) include a brief
11 explanation of each line item surcharge for both government and private line item surcharges;
12 and, (5) include all charges for a billing cycle on a single bill.